

Iraq, Syria hold talks on Euphrates cutoff

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq and Syria were reported Sunday to have put aside their long-standing feud by holding meetings to discuss Turkey's cutoff of the Euphrates River.

The daily Al Anbaa, quoting Arab diplomatic sources, said Iraq and Syrian officials held four meetings in Baghdad and Damascus over the past two weeks to "coordinate" their response.

The sources, who were not further identified, were quoted as saying the meetings represented "a positive development" for the future of relations between the two Arab countries.

The identities or government rank of the officials were not disclosed. There was no immediate reaction to the Kuwaiti report from either Iraq or Syria.

Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates water for a month, beginning Jan. 13, to fill the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern province.

The 2,300-kilometre Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before flowing into the Gulf.

The Turkish action triggered protests in Syria and Iraq, who fear damage to their agriculture and a worsening of international quarrels over scarce water resources.

Al Anbaa said that the overtures were started by Damascus when Syrian delegation visited Baghdad "to discuss taking a unified stand over the Euphrates issue."

The Kuwaiti daily said Baghdad and Damascus adopted as their blueprint a legal study by the late Salah Al Tarazi of Syria on the rights of Iraq and Syria to the Euphrates waters.

Tarazi was Syria's permanent delegate at the United Nations before he was chosen as a judge

at the International Court in the Hague.

"Though the discussions were confined to the Euphrates waters, they indicate an imminent improvement in relations between the two countries at a time when both Iraq and Syria are preparing for a period of domestic openness," the paper quoted one of its sources as saying.

That was a reference to a decision by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to introduce a new constitution that would provide for greater press freedom and the formation of new political parties.

There have also been unconfirmed reports in the Gulf Arab press that Syria is planning to open up economically with market-oriented reforms.

Among the most contentious issues dividing the two countries is the war in Lebanon. Iraq was supplying renegade Gen. Michel Aoun with weapons in his "war of liberation" against Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Also contributing to the feud was Syria's support for Iran in the eight-year Gulf war against Iraq.

Saudis suspend issuing visas in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Saudi Arabia's embassy has suspended issuing visas to Thais seeking employment in that nation after three of its diplomats were killed last week, said a Thai spokesman.

Thai government spokesman Surit Yodmanee said in a telephone interview that it was unclear when visas would be processed again.

A newspaper in Saudi Arabia reported Saturday that the country was taking steps to halt the entry of Thai workers, but did not specify what the measures would be.

Unknown assailants shot the three diplomats to death last Thursday. All three worked in the embassy's consular section, which processes visas for the thousands of Thais seeking work in the oil-rich nation.

About 150,000 Thais are currently in Saudi Arabia. Somporn Fai-Champa, a Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Saudi Arabian move would not affect those workers.

Somporn quoted Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetila as telling the Saudi embassy that investigation of the killings would be speeded up.

Siddhi also sent a letter to Prime Minister Chatichai Choonbavan and Interior Minister Banham Silpa-Archa stating his concern over the case, Somporn said.

Survived some Saudi Arabian families left Thailand Saturday because of safety concerns.

Thai authorities have failed to find the killers of another Saudi Arabian diplomat who was shot to death in January last year.

That diplomat had been responsible for processing visa applications. There was speculation at the time that the murderers could have been frustrated workers or labour export agents unable to secure entry visas to the Middle Eastern kingdom.

No evidence emerged in that case that the killing was linked to the turbulent politics of the Middle East or international terrorism.

Aoun's troops make slow progress in battle against Lebanese Forces

BEIT MERI, Lebanon (R) — General Michel Aoun is making slow progress in his bid to become absolute master of Lebanon's predominantly Christian enclave which has cost almost 200 lives in five days of savage fighting.

From a vantage point occupied by Aoun's gunners along the mountain resort of Beit Meri, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia is trying to crush what was seen as stiff resistance to his army's superior firepower.

Some 700 metres below, the deserted streets of east Beirut were swathed in black choking smoke from a dozen fires after a two-hour battle starting at dawn Sunday — the heaviest single bout of fighting since the war began Wednesday.

Shells and rockets poured into and across the city, exploding at the rate of one a second for 70 minutes. The air was filled with a thunderous roar and the ground shook.

Entire blocks were lit up by the many fires or flashes from artillery — white as shells were fired and yellow when they exploded. The whole scene was illuminated by two gas tanks burning in the Dora district.

Aoun said at the height of a bout of fierce battles 10 months ago with his mainly Muslim adversaries in Syrian-controlled Beirut that he was prepared

to see Beirut destroyed in pursuit of his aims.

Residents said the Christian half of the city, home to some 500,000 people, may indeed emerge a devastated ruin by the time his battle with arch Christian rival, LF leader Samir Geagea, is decided.

The battle Sunday stretched along a 10-kilometre front from the south eastern suburbs of east Beirut to the northern suburb of Dbeayeh.

Fighting raged between neighbourhoods along a network of front lines established when fighting broke out after Aoun ordered Geagea's militia to disarm.

Aoun's army broadly controls a strip of territory from Aoun's bunker beneath the presidential palace at Baabda in the south east of Dbeayeh. It is trying to push the LF into the sea around the docks in the north-west corner of east Beirut.

It was trying to advance along three main axes — from coastal Dbeayeh in the north, towards Dora in the east and from Dora in the south.

Military sources said Aoun's troops had made slow progress since Wednesday. As they advanced along main roads they were having to clear surrounding areas of militiamen, split into units of a dozen men each and adopting hit-and-run tactics.

Next to the port is the shell

blast LF headquarters at Karantina, where Geagea is believed to be directing operations from a bunker three floors below ground.

A multi-barrelled rocket launcher at the HQ opens fire across the city to support militia units in trouble elsewhere. A stream of 122mm rockets was directed Sunday at Dbeayeh, the army's northernmost position within the enclave.

Troops in Dbeayeh faced LF tanks and artillery guarding the tunnel at Dog River on the coastal highway leading to the militia-held port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

Military sources said Sunday the army now held hills overlooking the tunnel and hoped to take it soon. Commandos had been sent down from the mountains to the southern approaches of Jounieh to cut off any LF reinforcements headed for the tunnel.

But there were reports that the LF was already receiving supplies by sea.

The army has also been gradually probing northwards along the coast road from Dbeayeh for the past two days. It hopes to push through Jounieh to link with its commando units holding territory north of the port — including Lebanon's prime gambling casino and an air force base at Adma — but surrounded by

the LF on three sides.

But military analysts said Aoun would probably try to eliminate the LF in Beirut before turning on its traditional heartland in Jounieh and the northeast of the Christian enclave.

The rocket launcher at Karantina also struck at the southernmost army position on the coast road, in the Death River area. Scores of shells were exchanged between Death River and LF positions in nearby Dora, on the main route to Karantina.

Army gunners also rained fire on the residential district of Ashrafieh in the heart of east Beirut. Capture of Ashrafieh's hilltop Cecine Square would permit close-quarter shelling of militia headquarters.

South of Ashrafieh, the LF stronghold of Ain Roumanieh, another residential district, has taken some of the heaviest army fire of the past two days.

Military sources said the district, where Lebanon's civil war began in 1975, was virtually surrounded but proving a tough nut to crack. Many buildings have deep bomb shelters originally built to protect residents from attacks across the nearby green line dividing east and west Beirut.

"Even children know how to fight in Ain Roumanieh," said a retired army officer. "It has to be cleared out."

Kuwait urges Soviets to halt emigration to Israel

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The government called on the Soviet Union Sunday to take urgent measures to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, describing the process as a "flagrant aggression" against the Arabs.

A statement issued after the weekly cabinet session chaired by the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Sabir Al Abdullah Al Sabah, reminded Moscow of its close links with the Arab World.

It said failure to stem the emigration flow would cast doubt on the credibility of "the concerned parties" seeking to promote a Middle East settlement. These include the Soviet Union.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month he expected some 300,000 Soviet Jews to settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the next few years.

Moscow has recently relaxed some restrictions on the emigration of the Soviet Jews, while the United States has tightened its immigration regulations.

"The Kuwaiti government followed with extreme concern the news of intensive emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, considering it a direct encouragement to the expansionist policies of the Israeli leadership and Zionist settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashid.

"While the cabinet denounces this tragic development, it calls on all international parties, foremostly the Soviet Union, which maintains links of cooperation, friendship and common interests with the Arab World, to take urgent measures to halt this emigration which constitutes a flagrant aggression on the rights

of the Arab people of Palestinian and a serious danger to the future of the Arab Nation," he said.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry called for international action on the Soviet Jews issue, but did not mention the Soviet Union directly.

Rabbi lifts flight ban

An Israeli chief Rabbi Sunday lifted for Soviet Jews a standing ban against air travel on the Jewish Sabbath.

Tel Aviv Rabbi Yona Metzger said the ruling by chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, one of two chief rabbis, holds that Jews may fly on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays if there is a fear their lives are in danger.

Metzger said Eliahu issued the religious ruling in answer to his question about a huge Soviet Jewish demand to emigrate.

Soviet Jews are moving to Israel at a rate of 5,000 a month. "This isn't war, this isn't shooting, but there is a possibility that lives are in danger or a fear of there perhaps being pogroms in various areas," Metzger told Reuters.

"The chief rabbi's ruling said in places where there is a fear of mounting anti-Semitism to the point of pogroms, it is not only permissible to fly on the Sabbath but a religious duty."

Jews are not normally allowed to travel on the Sabbath which runs from Friday evening to Saturday night.

Israel says it wants emigration accelerated for fear that resurgence of nationalism in the Soviet Union could lead to attacks on Jews or that Moscow's open-door policy could be revoked should President Gorbachev fall from power.

Ethiopia asks rebels to support peace moves

NAIROBI (R) — The Ethiopian government has called on rebels in northern areas to respond to its call for peace and warned them that it will step up military operations, if the appeal is ignored.

Addis Ababa Radio, monitored here Sunday, said: "We urge all opposition groups, including the Weyane, to respond positively to our call for peace."

Weyane is the name of the government gives to the rebel Tigra People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which occupied large areas of northern Ethiopia.

The radio added that if the appeal was ignored, the government would reinforce its troops and militia now operating against the rebels.

Last week the Tigra rebels said they had killed more than 700 government troops in a battle in Wollo province.

Terror, hunger stalk besieged south Sudanese city

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM — Relief workers evacuated from Juba, Sudan's beleaguered southern capital, described a city of panic, terror and fear.

Prevented from fleeing by well-armed and -armed soldiers, scores of thousands of people weak with hunger desperately dig foxholes and trenches to escape shrapnel from rebel rockets.

"Juba has become a death trap," said Krishnan Daniel Eiffe. "People live in terror from the shelling. This is a whole new dimension."

"At first we only had to contend with the hunger."

Eiffe, who works for ACCORD, a London-based development and relief organization, flew to Khartoum with three other Westerners in an evacuation project using aircraft of the United Nations.

Fourteen other Westerners expected to join the airlift flew instead on a private agency's plane to Nairobi, Kenya.

There, an Italian physician said the 250,000 inhabitants live in fear of food riots if

minute quantities of sustenance reaching the city are cut off and the meager stocks run out.

Also, he spoke of widespread dread of urban warfare in Juba's streets if the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) ends its long siege of the city with a military advance. Fear is exacerbated by the sign of broadcasts from the clandestine rebel radio station: "Black people be ready."

John Garang, a renegade army colonel, sent his Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) into the southern bush in early 1983. He accused the Arab Muslim-dominated central government of discriminating against the ethnically African non-Muslim southerners and demanded economic, political and administrative changes favouring the south.

Sudan is Africa's largest country, as big as the United States east of the Mississippi River, and wretchedly poor. Hundreds of thousands have died in the rebellion, mainly civilian victims of famine caused by farmers' being driven from their fields to seek

sanctuary in government-controlled places like Juba, 1,200 kilometres south of the capital Khartoum.

A small city, Juba is egregiously overcrowded. More than half its inhabitants, living in crude camps on the periphery, are displaced people. Juba has been shelled twice, on Jan. 21 and Jan. 26.

Eiffe said at least 23 civilians died, including 13 Ugandan refugees, a 7-month-old baby and three old people whose hearts gave out under fire.

He said the shelling stopped all work, schools and even food distribution in Juba as people expected renewed attacks.

Distribution is so limited now, said Eiffe, that rations are half those considered minimal daily fare by international standard.

Since the government banned relief flights in the south on Nov. 3 because of renewed fighting, some of the worst in the war, Juba's only source of food has been daily Sudan Airways flights chartered by the Lutheran World Federation in Nairobi.

The flights bring in 50-60 tonnes of food a day. To feed its population adequately, Juba needs 150 tonnes daily.

"The Sudan Airways pilots are very brave," Eiffe said. "They fly in despite SPLA (missile) attacks on them."

"Thousands of people gather around the Sudan Airways office in Juba trying to get tickets out. They fly out around 80 to 100 Sudanese daily."

On Jan. 29, rebel radio again advised Juba residents to evacuate to escape the shells that will fall again.

Most of Juba's 80 to 120 expatriates have left to Nairobi, singly or in small groups, on the Lutheran World Federation flights. Project supervisor Bob Koepf said in Nairobi that 36 already flew out.

A handful remain. Eiffe and his colleague, British national Garry Jones, said they intend to return soon.

"There is too much that still needs to be done," Jones said. Eiffe said Juba residents crowded into his office, the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development, begging for shovels and picks to dig bunkers to hid in. Others

fled to the deep banks of the Nile for protection.

Still, he said, many were wounded during the 45-minute barrages that came from Juba's eastern outskirts.

Some of the Western evacuees in Khartoum and Nairobi blamed both the army and the rebels for Juba's desperation.

They said the rebels shelled Juba indiscriminately with anti-personnel rockets, which make a terrifying noise when they explode and burst into hundreds of pieces of maiming shrapnel.

As for the army, evacuees said, it has thrown up a security cordon including landmines around the city. While this keeps out rebels, they said, soldiers refuse to let civilians leave, thereby keeping a protective civilian umbrella for themselves.

One evacuee said many southerners in Juba sympathize with the rebel cause, but nobody can understand their purpose in shelling Juba. He said residents listen to government and rebel propaganda and feel trapped in the middle.

These evacuees spoke on condition they not be identified by name or organization.

The army has 9,000 to 10,000 troops in the Juba garrison, plus several thousand other armed civilians and militia. About 5,000 rebels are thought to surround the city, but military sources in Khartoum said they lack the firepower or manpower to take Juba.

Juba's market is almost nonexistent. Prices of the few goods available have skyrocketed far beyond the reach of all but the handful of wealthy and the soldiers.

90-kilogramme sack of dura, the sorghum-like staple cereal of the Sudanese, costs 2,000 Sudanese pounds (\$165), 15 times its normal price of 130 pounds (\$10.75).

An average salary in Sudan is 400-500 pounds (\$35-41), but most of Juba's inhabitants have no jobs.

"A few weeks ago, food was the major concern," Eiffe said. "Now that's changed, and it's terror from shelling."

"The food is diminishing. We're at a very early point of malnutrition. But if the planes keep coming in, Juba will hold."

En raison des événements qui se déroulent actuellement à Beyrouth, les délégués du C.S.F.E. ont dû reporter à une date ultérieure leur visite à Amman.

La réception prévue à la Résidence de France Lundi à Février est donc annulée./

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programmes
16:00	News summary in Arabic
16:05	World News
16:15	Local programme
16:40	Programme review
16:45	News in Hebrew
16:50	Arabic series
17:10	Programme review
17:15	Local programmes
17:20	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Nick, Chanson des Etoiles
18:05	News in French
18:15	Weekly Sport magazine
18:20	News in Hebrew
18:25	Varieties
18:30	Empty Nest
18:35	Kane and Abel
18:40	News in English
18:45	Midnight Caller
PRAYER TIMES	
05:44	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Duha
11:59	Dhuhr
14:59	Asr
17:16	Maghrib
18:35	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711231	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772631	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771251	
Assumption International Church Tel. 683206	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy in general and there will be a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers and winds will be northerly moderate	

GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101	Ben Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Jordan Television	773111	BERD:	
Radio Jordan	774111	Feloush Bazaar Hospital	(02)272555
Water Authority	660100	Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272225
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615	Ben Al Nabtes Hospital	(02)247100
Electric Power		AQABA:	
Company	636361	Marakez Hayat Hospital	(08)314111
RJ Flight Information	08-33200		
Queen Aila Intl. Airport	08-33200		

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Center	813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Alshah Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Melhat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	6647114
Shamekhal Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843635
Al-Mashar Hospital	6672119
The Islamic, Abdull	66621737
Al-Ahli, Abdull	6641646
Italian, Al-Mashar	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	77511126
Amr, J. Amn.	8161115
Queen Aila Hospital	66224050
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08-33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:05	Baghdad (RJ)
07:30	Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Sams (RJ)
09:30	Cairo, Amman (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

WFP to extend highlands project for five more years

AMMAN (J.T.) — Poor rainfall in Jordan, limited funds for projects, an increase in the population growth rate and unemployment have prompted the World Food Programme (WFP), which is affiliated to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to extend a project for the development of the highland agricultural regions of Jordan for five more years, according to agricultural engineer Salem Ekour, the project director.

Ekour was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the WFP would spend \$26 million over the coming five years starting from April 1990 in extension to the development project, which has been going on for more than two decades.

The WFP assistance, Ekour said, will be in the form of flour, sugar, cooking oil, dates and dried milk assistance to the farmers whose lands are involved in the project.

WFP assistance to the highland agricultural regions in Jordan is now in its fourth phase and the new plans entail reclaiming 150,000 dunams of land, Ekour said. He said that the project entails removing stones, planting fruit trees, building stone and barbed wire fences, drilling artesian wells and roads.

For the first time in the project's history, domestic animals will be brought to be raised around the homes of farmers in the rural regions which will also be grown with animal feed, especially in the first three years, to involve women in husbandry work and to collect manure to fertilise the fields and provide sufficient protein food for the

farmers' families, he added.

The new phase of the project, which is concentrated in the highland areas of Irbid, Jerash, Salt, Amman, Ajloun, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Mafrak, Tafleh and Maan, is expected to benefit small farmers.

"At least 7,500 poor farm households stand to benefit from it," according to Ekour.

The main aim of the project is to stop soil erosion and produce fruits, according to Ekour.

According to WFP officials here, the food assistance would help compensate farmers for the temporary loss of income when they switch from wheat crop to fruit production.

Requirements

Referring to the terms required for a farmer to be involved in such project, Ekour said the land should be well-marked plot and no less than four dunams in area, but not exceeding 50 dunams, and that annual rainfall on the land should not be less than 250 millimetres and should not have benefitted from earlier development schemes.

But these preconditions could change depending on the WFP's plans and advice, he said. However, the Ministry of Agriculture will issue regulations about these conditions soon, Ekour added.

According to WFP officials, earlier phases included the construction of windbreakers, farm buildings and distillers. This time fodder crop will be planted as a pilot project in order to better integrate livestock raising with rain-fed farming.



Frosty weather has taken its toll on agricultural crops in the Jordan Valley, prompting the authorities to accelerate moves towards introducing an agricultural insurance scheme for farmers (J.T. photo).

'Regular' platefuls end 'food strike' at hospital

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A "food strike" at one of Amman's largest hospitals appeared to have ended Sunday after the authorities met the employees' demands for reinstatement of better quality food and "regular" portions.

"It seems that the management has agreed to reverse its decision about the food served to the staff and patients because today the menu was better than last Thursday," when the issue triggered employees' protest action, said a doctor working at Al Bashir government hospital.

The doctor was one of the few who trickled into the hospital cafeteria Sunday evening after staying away for three days in a protest against the reduction in the quantity of food. Almost the entire staff were reported to have staged a hunger strike Friday.

According to a management source at the hospital, "there is no problem anymore; everything has been settled."

The strike was triggered when employees noticed a "sizeable decrease" in the quantity of the meals served to them on Thursday, several doctors at the hospital said.

According to information available to the Jordan Times, the reduction in quantity came after a contract between a catering company and the Al Bashir Hospital ended Jan. 31, and the National Medical Institution (NMI) assumed direct control of the staff cafeteria, which serves over 800 meals every day to the hospital's doctors, nurses and general staff.

Under the terms of a new contract, the original contractor, Wacare, is now in charge of preparing and serving food; the "basic products" are supplied by the NMI. The previous contract had assigned the total catering operations to Wacare.

"Now the National Medical Institution is in charge of catering, and another company is involved," said two doctors who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. However, the food was described by many staff members as of low quality and little until Sunday evening.

"This evening it is better," said one of the doctors. "The quality is good and the quantity served is also almost normal," he said.

No authoritative spokesman for Wacare was available for comment.

However, one of its staff at the cafeteria asserted that

"only a few of the hospital employees had stayed away." But this was immediately challenged by several members of the staff who said "everybody showed solidarity and boycotted the cafeteria."

Explaining the reasons behind the NMI's original decision to reduce the quantity of food served at Al Bashir Hospital, an NMI source said that earlier it used to cost JD 1.40 per meal at the hospital, "but now with the devaluation of the dinar by over 40 per cent and rising food prices the same meal is costing JD 2.80."

According to a source close to the dispute, "obviously, the NMI wants to maintain the JD 1.40 price so it reduced the portions and quality in order to remain within its original budget."

"But, the net result was reduced food portions, which the 800 or so employees of the hospital protested with their so-called 'food strike,'" said the source, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The source said the NMI move to assume control of catering applied to all hospitals under its control. But no counter moves were reported from other hospital any other than Al Bashir Hospital.

Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, director of NMI, could not be reached for comment Sunday.

According to numerous accounts by Al Bashir staff members and patients, the change in food, both "in terms of quality and quantity," was "drastic."

"A breast of chicken which used to be served to one person was split among two or three," said a young intern. "We used to have one small container each of yoghurt, and this was reduced a couple of spoonfuls. Instead of a decent portion of salad, we had to grope to find tomatoes and cucumbers," he said.

Another doctor said that breakfast consisting of an egg and a piece of bread for doctors on-call was stopped and "the tea in the morning was no longer available."

"The shop outside the hospital did booming business over the last three days," he said.

A shopkeeper near the hospital confirmed the account. Agreeing to be quoted only as "Abu Sulaiman," the shopkeeper said: "My business during the last three days was as much as three weeks in normal times."

Patients were also affected by the reduction in food at the hospital, according to some staff members. "Even the patients were getting low quantity food that simply was not enough," the Jordan Times could not interview any of the patients to verify this charge.

NMI blames ministry, drugstores for shortage

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Medical Institution (NMI) in Jordan believes that the current crisis over the shortage of medicine in the market is largely due to a dispute between the Ministry of Health and local drug stores, according to a senior NMI official.

The ministry wants to retain the same prices for medicines while the drugstores are demanding a higher price because they say that the drugs were bought for higher prices, NMI Deputy Director General Badie Qawasneh told Petra. "The best solution for the problem is floating the drug prices and not creating a parallel market for selling medicine," Qawasneh said.

Qawasneh said that NMI hospitals did not have any medicine shortage and all those entitled to health services can assured of sufficient amounts of medicine.

"Any shortage of medicine in pharmacies is the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health which is now trying to find a solution for the dispute with the drugstores," Qawasneh added.

Different types of medicine in large quantities are now lying in drugstores in Amman awaiting the end of the dispute and an agreement on pricing, Petra said.

Qawasneh said that two hospitals for all of Irbid is not enough and the NMI plans to set up a hospital in Kura in the Irbid district.

JUST seminar to review child growth surveillance

AMMAN (J.T.) — A scientific workshop on the operational tools used in conducting systematic monitoring and surveillance of child growth and development is going to be held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on Thursday and Friday.

The Department of Community Medicine and Public Health of the School of Medicine at the university is the organizer and sponsor of the workshop. The activity may be recognized as one step forward in promoting the concept of "continuous medical education," according to a university press release. It comes in accordance with the recently evolving attention towards a preventive strategy that aims at securing better chances for child health and development, the press release said.

The recipients in the workshop will be physicians of maternal and child health centres under the health directorate of Irbid. Later, those physicians will act as trainers to the body of midwives and health workers attached to these centres.

The supervision over the workshop activities will be the responsibility of a group of teaching staff members in the Department of Community Medicine; these are Professor Dr. Sa'ad S. Hijazi (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor Nabeel Kamel, Dr. Ra'eda Qutob, and Ibrahim Khatib.

Among the training elements which will be discussed and practised in this workshop are: The technique used in assessing growth, statistical demonstration of growth data, local factors influencing child growth, the high risk groups prone to growth failures in the community, and the standard screening tests used in screening for developmental delays at early childhood.

Workshop debates agriculture insurance

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for applying agricultural insurance in Jordan will be discussed by officials and specialists from Jordan and specialised organisations during a two-day workshop, which was opened in Amman Sunday.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said the workshop, organised by the ministries of agriculture and planning in cooperation with the West German technical cooperation agency, would deal with the matter of insurance in view of dangers to crops brought about by natural causes like drought, frost, floods, fires, disease, locusts and others.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Sumna told the opening session of the workshop, being held at Azura Hotel, that agricultural insurance was one of the most feasible elements that help stabilise the agricultural sector in Jordan. There have been some studies about this matter but the government has not yet taken any practical steps for adopting this kind of insurance, Sumna said.

He noted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the concerned authorities to give due attention to agricultural

insurance following the floods that swept some parts of the country, especially the Jordan Valley, in the past years prompted the Ministry of Agriculture to seriously consider insurance against agricultural losses and damages.

The floods caused extensive damage to crops and homes of small farmers in the Jordan Valley and other areas of Jordan.

Following the floods, the ministry set up a special technical committee grouping representatives of the ministry and other sectors involved in agriculture to draw up proposals for the new endeavour, Sumna added. He said that the report recommended agricultural insurance, but there are obstacles in implementing the scheme.

"The idea of insurance is still ambiguous for farmers who have their own social traditions, and the ministry has been lacking qualified staff to conduct insurance," Sumna said. "Now it is possible to commence implementing such endeavour, which will no doubt benefit the majority of farmers," he added.

Dr. Safwan Touqan, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, told the session that the

1986-1990 five year plan provided for promoting agriculture in Jordan on a large scale and for improving farmers' income, increasing the country's output and protecting the environment.

Agricultural insurance, Touqan added, "plays a vital role in increasing agricultural output, helps to bring stability to farmers, encourages the private sector to get more involved in farming, reduces movement of people from rural to urban areas and minimises dependence on government subsidies."

Taking part in the workshop are delegates from the ministries of agriculture, industry and trade and planning as well as the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Jordan Valley Farmers Association, the Jordanian Insurance Companies Association, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Association of Banks in Jordan, the Central Bank of Jordan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development.

Tawjihi results expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The results of the mid-year Tawjihi examinations taken by students of the second secondary class last month will be announced Monday by the Ministry of Education, which organised the examinations for all government and private schools in the Kingdom, according to an announcement made Sunday by Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, the ministry's director of examinations and evaluation.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Obaidat said the results, which will be distributed to schools in all regions, had been delayed for six days this year awaiting the announcement of Tawjihi results in the occupied territories.

A total of 66,302 male and female students took the examinations, up from nearly 60,000 in the last scholastic year, sitting for seven different streams — literature, science, commerce, agriculture, industrial nursing and hotel management.

Obaidat described the results of the scientific stream as "good", with the least average grade for English language at 70 per cent and rising as high as 92.8 per cent for some students in Arabic language.

He said the results of the literary stream were not as good, with the least grade for English at 40 per cent while the highest grade was 74.1 per cent for Islamic education. Results for the commercial stream were good with the least average grade at 53.1 per cent while the highest was 93.5 per cent, according to Obaidat.

The agricultural stream students did "very well" in the examination, with the least grade at 62.3 per cent and the highest at 100 per cent and the industrial stream was also good with the least grade at 52.3 per cent and the highest at 100 per cent.

Obaidat said that the general average grades ranged between 70 to 80 per cent.

In June, the same students will sit for the second and last examination for the 1989-1990 scholastic year; but those who fail in any subject can take make-up examinations in subsequent examinations.

According to Obaidat, 239 students had their papers cancelled from last month's examinations for certain violations of regulations.

Private sector details sheep import proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Supply Merchants Association in Jordan has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Supply for the import of live sheep and cattle, which, it said, would save the country a total of JD 22 million difference in price for imported slaughtered sheep or in government subsidies for meat.

The Association's deputy-president, Mohammad Deeb, said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanian merchants had expressed readiness to import sheep from Australia and Uruguay to be slaughtered at the Amman slaughterhouse.

Each of the imported live sheep will not be more than two years of age and will not weigh more than 25 kilograms and will cost for \$45 or JD 30 each including freight to Aqaba, Deeb said.

Deeb said that the price of a kilogramme would reach JD 1.250, and a 30 per cent profit for all dealers would make it JD 1.600 per kilo for the consumers.

Deeb said the animals' hide and bowels when sold can cover all the expenses of the importer and the cost of stabling and feeding them.

The proposal was prompted by the shortages of fresh meat imported from Bulgaria and Romania due to recent upheavals in the two countries. To make up for the shortage of fresh meat, the Ministry of Supply has imported large quantities of frozen meat from New Zealand. The meat now sells for JD 1.500 a kilo, while local fresh meat is still in short supply.

In comparing prices, Deeb said in his statement that imported fresh meat from Romania and Bulgaria cost JD 1.600 a kilo and sold for JD 1.120 which means a

loss of 480 fils per kilogramme. Deeb estimated the annual loss in meat subsidy at JD 12 million.

Turning to beef and cow meat, Deeb said that the government was paying some JD 10 million in subsidies and in difference in prices. The ministry suggested that it could allow the private sector to import live cows to be slaughtered in Jordan in a similar manner, he said. A kilogramme of cow meat will arrive here at JD 1.200 and will be sold to the consumers for JD 1.60 with bone and JD 2.000 without bone, according to Deeb.

Deeb also suggested the creation of a company to ferry sheep to Aqaba and said that the private sector and investment funds could be involved in the operation, floating stables with a capacity of 120,000 heads of sheep each.

He said the creation of such company does not cost more than the total amount of subsidy on meat for three years.

For its part, the Ministry of Supply welcomed the proposal that the private sector import live sheep but said importers should pay duty on each head of sheep entering Jordan contrary to what the merchants demanded.

In his statement, Deeb said that the government should not charge any duty on the imported sheep and can remove the subsidy on meat in return.

The ministry issues licences for merchants to import live sheep, but duties will be levied on the imports, according to a ministry official. He said that unless laws are changed nothing can be done about the duty charges.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said Jordan had almost three million heads of sheep but not sufficient to cover the country's needs.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower House panels to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Health and Environmental Safety Committee meets Monday to discuss laws related to the Jordan Dentists Association, the Jordan medical board and the National Medical Institution. The House's Palestine and Occupied Territories Committee will Tuesday resume discussions on the effects of Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank. Also the House's Financial Committee will meet Wednesday to discuss income tax laws.

Qaisi reports on anti-drug talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Arab Anti-Narcotics Bureau, returned to Amman Sunday after representing the Council of Arab Interior Ministers at the 26th meeting of the Near and Middle East sub-committee for combating drugs held in Vienna on Jan. 24 and 25. Qaisi and other Arab representatives coordinated their stands concerning several issues, particularly backing demands by Syria, Bahrain and Qatar to join the sub-committee and demanding Arabic be adopted as a working language besides English by the sub-committee. The sub-committee discussed means to counter drug smuggling operations and the implementation of a United Nations agreement to combat drugs.

Information experts continue meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Specialists entrusted with following up the implementation of resolutions adopted by inter-governmental conference on information policies continued discussions Sunday and reviewed two working papers. The first, presented by Dr. Nabil Al Dajani, dealt with the importance of accurate statistical data in developing the information process at the Arab level. The second paper, presented by Dr. Karim Al Wa'er, dealt with the realities and needs of information training in the Arab World.

QAF to attend meeting on women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Aila Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will take part in a conference on scopes for better life for women scheduled to begin in Alexandria, Egypt, Tuesday. The three-day conference will discuss health and educational needs and legal rights of 12- to 20-year-old girls. Taking part in the conference are 30 women working in social and legal services fields, government institutions and information in the Arab countries. The QAF will be represented at the conference by In'am Darwish and Taghrood Atiyeh.

Architectural exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An architectural engineering educational exhibition was opened Sunday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The week-long exhibition of works by Ja'far Touqan includes architectural designs and photographs as well as models in Jordan and other Arab countries.

RSS to conduct cement tests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will conduct periodic laboratory tests on products of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), according to an agreement recently signed between the RSS and JCFC. The tests will include ordinary portland cement, sulphate resistant cement and portland pozzolan cement.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cheroun, Mesgich, Mamech, Panchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by French oud player Mark Loopyt at the Philadelphia Hotel — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ An architectural exhibition by Ja'far Touqan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ziyad and Riyad Rajab Hanieh warmly congratulate their friend

Sami Zanonetian

on his wedding to

Elizabeth Giragossian

May God bless your marriage.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

On the Occasion of the 12th Meeting of The Executive Board of the Arab Academy of Music and the 1st Arab Music Rostrum

The National Music Conservatory/ Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The French Cultural Centre/Amman present

The French 'Ud Player
Mark Loopyt
in concert
Main Hall/Philadelphia Hotel
Monday, 5 February 1990, 8:00 p.m.

More concerts for the occasion:

Date	Concerts
Tuesday 6/2	ARAB NAGHAM ORCHESTRA (in cooperation with the Association of Jordanian Musicians)
Wednesday 7/2	Pianist and Composer PATRICK LAMA
Thursday 8/2	Iraqi 'Ud Player MUNIR BASHIR

Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661242

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Weekly Political Pulse

Jordan needs to reassess school system

By Waleed Sadi

A TRAGEDY befell Jordan's school system last week when an eight-year-old student was killed at the hands of his teacher at one of the public schools in Shobak. The tragedy has been compounded by the fact that the murder did not stir much public outcry. There were very few voices that condemned the killing and our parliamentarians, who pride themselves in addressing issues of public interest, did very little if any to demand even an explanation of the incident. Such an ominous and regrettable lack of interest in what goes on in our schools is something that is bothering many parents. Whatever the true reasons that lie behind this indifference, we must now renew the call for a public debate of the broader subject of schools and school curricula.

The very fact that a child was killed in one of Jordan's schools in this last decade of the twentieth century is a grim reminder that all is not well in our schools. The revamping of the country's school and higher education systems is an urgent and pressing matter in view of the rapid changes within and outside Jordan and the giant leaps forward in thought, science and technology. Putting student-teacher relations on a sounder and more enlightened platform is all the more urgent in view of the hypothesis that the death of the young student last week is just the tip of the iceberg that tells a horrifying story about continuing mistreatment of students of all ages. There is no doubt in my mind that there are

countless stories of maltreatment of students in both private and public schools that go on unrecorded or documented. The only way to deal with this horrendous phenomenon is to have the new spirit of democracy which has permeated life in the country succeed in making a beach-head on our school system where tyranny and oppression still reign supreme.

One fundamental aspect of democratisation of the school and university life is surely the promotion and development of freely elected student governments on campuses. Through this route, Jordanians can achieve two objectives: elevate student-teacher relations to a democratic plateau and train Jordanians in the art of democracy as early as possible to enable them later in life to practise democracy in a mature and responsible manner. The country has no right to criticise the repeated manifestation of irresponsibility or immaturity by some voters or their elected representatives or question their sophistication or awareness as long as Jordanians are deprived of opportunities to learn the art of contemporary citizenship in the formative years of their lives.

The killing of the young student last week also calls for the consideration and treatment of the broader subject of child abuse in the Kingdom. There is no doubt that child abuse of all sorts and forms is rampant in our life and that the majority of child abuse

cases still go on undetected and unresolved. There is an urgent need for a special legislation on this matter to fill the gaps and loopholes existing in laws governing children and their exploitation or abuse. In this vein, it would be in order to establish a quasi-private society to monitor and treat child abuse cases, Jordan is treaty-obligated to treat its children in a more humane and enlightened manner and it is high time that the long march towards healthier child treatment be started. The government towards healthier child treatment be started. The government should be encouraged to sign and ratify the recently adopted International Convention on the Protection of Children and incorporate its guidelines and provisions into Jordanian laws. Through respect of the letter and spirit of international and domestic legislation on child protection, the killing of students or the abuse of children would have a real chance to stop.

The chagrin of the entire country over the death of the eight-year-old student can never be meaningful and potent enough to redress the entire issue to the satisfaction of all Jordanians unless and until Jordanian children are accorded the full attention, care and protection that they are naturally and legally entitled to. In this context, I would respectfully submit that the Kingdom dedicate a day for students to be called student day in which the entire country would honour them and commemorate the additional safeguards and protections accorded to them.

Process not in vain

EXAMINATION of the 1990 draft budget by the Finance Committee of the Lower House took 21 days followed by three full days of intense debate by the House itself. The deliberations ended by the expected approval of the budget by a majority of about three to one and only after a minor one per cent reduction of certain office expenses.

This does not necessarily mean that the lengthy democratic process was in vain. In fact, the budget was prepared with that process in mind, so the debate was both healthy and useful. When you have a strong army, it is more likely that you don't need to use it because your potential enemy has already taken note of your preparedness.

One has to point out though that the budget was not the Badran government's budget. It was drafted, approved by the Cabinet and referred to Parliament at least one week before Mr. Badran was asked to form his government.

The main winner of the parliamentary debate was the "economic correction programme" approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For the first time the full text of the programme was made public, and despite the opposing voices here and there, the programme was effectively accepted or at least tolerated. The budget of 1990 was the second phase of the five-year programme, and a step forward in the direction of achieving its goals, mainly those aimed at lowering the deficit and moving towards self-sufficiency.

There is, however, a feeling that the budget did not do much in a direct way to alleviate unemployment, inflation, public consumption and encourage new investments. But the budget did a lot indirectly. The economic stability may spur confidence and investments which create jobs, and the reduced deficit will control inflation. The budget was and continues to be the major instrument in directing the Jordanian economy.

In a way, the approval of the budget was a renewed vote of confidence in the government. The remaining battle will be over some temporary economic laws which need to be confirmed, especially the income tax law which touches on the pockets where it hurts. Here again, we don't expect a major problem. The government seems to be doing very well in handling the legislature — for the time being at any rate.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai Arabic daily on Sunday again discussed the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and said that proponents of such immigration tend to present it as a solution for a humanitarian problem. The paper noted that those backing the immigration process tend to forget that more Jews in the occupied territories means a stronger Israel, militarily and politically and that such immigration will encourage Israel to hold on to the occupied Arab land and continue its aggression and its inhuman practices. The paper said that the Arabs have to deal with the situation on two fronts: to hold a summit where discussion should lead to a collective action on the international level and to launch a wide scale campaign to convene the long expected international conference where a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be found. The Arabs want a peace that can ensure the return of all Arab rights and lands in exchange for this peace with Israel, said the paper. Although the Arabs realise that Israel would most certainly try to oppose any international move for a lasting settlement, they ought to move in all directions and take the initiative before it is too late, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Rai daily Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the United States finds acute pleasure in watching the Palestinians suffering as a result of their deprivation of human rights, and delighted at watching more Jews converging on the occupied Palestinian land to settle on Arab territory. The writer says that Washington does not only support the immigration of Soviet Jews, but is trying to facilitate and encourage this immigration which could destroy the Palestinian people's aspiration for freedom. Washington turns a deaf ear to all protests from the Arabs and the world community, and pretends that U.N. Security Council resolutions since 1948, which call for the return of the Arab population to their homeland in Palestine do not exist, the writer notes. Rimawi says Washington realises that the cause of tension in the Middle East is Israel's atrocities and inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories, but still continues to provide the Jewish state with all means to consolidate its hold over Arab territory. Furthermore, Washington finds no way for explaining and defending its racist policies and its continued support for the criminal actions committed by its ally in occupied Palestine, said the writer. He says one can only hope for changes to happen and new developments world-wide which could offer the Arabs a chance to regain their right.

One can only describe the debates that preceded the endorsement of the 1990 budget by parliament as an exercise of democracy in the full sense of the word, Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily said Sunday. The paper noted that Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in his replies to the deputies' remarks, shed more light on the situation in Jordan and explained that the Kingdom has limited means. This, the paper said, gives clear indication to the ordinary citizens that they ought to act with responsibility to help both the executive and legislative authorities. But the keenness displayed by both authorities during the debate on the need to safeguard public funds and to rationalise spending at all levels gives assurance that everything will be under control from now on; and no aggravation of the financial and economic situation could be forthcoming, the paper added. It said that the government and parliament both shoulder a great responsibility seeking the people's trust; and they ought to act accordingly and to rise to the occasion.

Time to reduce American aid to Israel

By Jawad F. George

Jawad F. George is executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, based in Washington.

MOMENTOUS developments in Eastern Europe and Latin America have placed compelling demands on the United States for its foreign-aid dollars at a time when huge deficits have forced sizeable budget reductions and heavily burdened the American taxpayer. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole has brought this conflict into focus for the American public with his bold statement that we must consider cutting the allotments of some countries to benefit others.

A serious re-examination of the way in which the United States allocates its foreign aid has been sorely needed for many years.

Five countries now receive two-thirds of the U.S. foreign-aid budget. One of the key causes of this inequity has been Congress practice of stipulating that specific sums be given to particular

countries, without regard to the effect on U.S. commitments elsewhere. In recent years, this practice has tied the hands of the Bush administration and resulted in the termination of many necessary but unprotected assistance programmes worldwide at a time when aggregate funding levels for U.S. foreign aid have declined. Dole has proposed a 5 per cent cut in aid to the five largest recipients — Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines and Turkey. While all five should be expected to bear an equitable share of any future cuts in the aid budget, four of these countries share certain important characteristics that would justify current levels of aid. All four are populous nations with low per-capita GNP and millions of their people living at bare subsistence levels or on the edge of poverty. And all four have developing economies with

a need for massive — start-up investments in basic industries and infrastructure. Israel is the exception. It is a wealthy, developed nation with a high per-capita GNP and a high standard of living. It also maintains, at great expense, an enormous military establishment that far surpasses that of any combination of its neighbours, and that includes chemical and nuclear weaponry and ballistic-missiles technology. A prudent and equitable allocation of aid would require a larger reduction in assistance to Israel, relative to other recipients.

The disproportionate Israeli share of U.S. foreign aid represents an outlay of \$698 for every Israeli citizen. Compare that to the 1990 allocation for the other four: Egypt, \$43 per capita, Turkey, \$11, Philippines, \$8, and Pakistan, \$6.

Since 1983 at least \$3 billion a year in U.S. economic and military aid has been allocated for Israel. This enormous sum, however, accounts for only part

of the benefits Israel receives. This year, as in the past, Israel was the only recipient to acquire its aid in a lump-sum transfer at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Unlike other countries, which must spend their military aid in the United States, Israel is allowed to spend \$400 million a year in Israel itself. U.S. law also stipulated that funds allocated to Israel be not less than the annual debt repayment from Israel to the United States government; a requisite that many poorer nations would welcome. Congress appropriated \$7.5 million that Israel can use as foreign assistance to third countries. And, from accounts earmarked for migration and refugee assistance, Congress stipulated that \$25 million was to be made available to Israel this year to assist the Soviet and other refugees resettling in Israel, though many other nations are experiencing much more pressing refugee problems.

How Israel uses those refugee assistance funds may raise serious questions about its commitment to peace. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir recently implied that Israel must retain the occupied West Bank to accommodate the influx of Soviet Jews, a position that is unquestionably contrary to U.S. policy.

Israel in recent years has been conducting numerous activities that undermine its claim to especially large amounts of U.S. foreign assistance. Among the most glaring examples: Israeli espionage against the United States, Israeli involvement in transferring ballistic missile technology to South Africa and its nuclear cooperation with Pretoria, Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel's continued occupation of portions of Lebanon as well as the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and its human rights abuses of Arab under the occupation, Israeli failure to advance the peace process regarding the West Bank and Gaza, and the involvement of Israelis in notorious activities detrimental to U.S. interests in Colombia and Panama.

Under the terms of U.S. law, these actions ought to disqualify Israel from receiving any U.S. assistance whatsoever. Even if the continuation of aid to Israel is deemed in the national interest, such aid should be used as leverage to persuade Israel to adhere to the basic standards of human rights and international law, and to meet the requirements of American laws. U.S. aid should not be given to Israel or any other recipient unconditionally.

Dole has done the American taxpayer a service by calling for a re-examination of U.S. aid allocations. But that re-examination should go beyond proposals to cut aid by simple formulas; it should include an assessment of whether foreign aid, which is an indispensable and worthy mechanism, is being used for purposes that are beneficial or detrimental to U.S. interests. With so many countries desperate for scarce U.S. assistance, not one dollar should be wasted. — Los Angeles Times

Mandela became world's most influential prisoner

By Laurinda Keys
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Nelson Mandela, given a life sentence for plotting sabotage to overthrow the South African government, became the world's most influential prisoner during what he described as "long, lonely, wasted years."

Unheard and unseen by the public since 1962, he nevertheless came to be the most admired leader among South African blacks, who consider him the embodiment of their quest for political freedom.

In the past, Mandela, 71, has rejected the government's repeated offers to release him if he would renounce violence or live in a tribal homeland. He said the government should renounce violence, end apartheid and urban his movement — the African National Congress.

On Friday in Cape Town, President F.W. de Klerk declared that the ANC was legal again and said Mandela soon would be freed unconditionally.

After Mandela's historic meeting July 5, 1989, with President F.W. de Klerk, a statement by the ANC leader was released by the prisons service and broadcast on government-run radio and television.

He said he had not deviated "from the position I have taken over the past 28 years, namely that dialogue with the mass democratic movement and, in particular, with the African National Congress, is the only way of ending violence and bringing peace to our country."

"I only would like to contribute to the creation of a climate which would promote peace in South Africa," Mandela said.

De Klerk replaced Botha in August 1989, and met with Mandela at his Cape Town office on Dec. 13, 1989, amid intense expectations that the prisoner would be freed in the new year.

Mandela regularly has entertained his family and streams of friends in a comfortable house at the Victor Verster prison farm in the wine-growing region of Paarl. He had been transferred there on Dec. 6, 1988, after recovering from tuberculosis contracted at Pollsmoor prison in Cape Town in August.

Expectations of his release had been raised before, but each time the government balked at freeing the man many blacks believed should be their president.

Former Information Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said in July 1988 that Mandela had served enough time to pay for his crimes and that the only thing keeping

him in prison was the government's uncertainty about the effect he would have on politics and national security.

It was a tacit admission of what Botha had denied for years — that Mandela was a political prisoner.

In 1985, Botha had allowed Zindzi Mandela to read her father's response to the latest offer of conditional release before a crowd in Soweto, the township outside Johannesburg where Mandela had rented a home since the 1940s.

"Only free men can negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts," Mandela said. "I cherish my own freedom dearly but I care even more for your freedom. Too many have died since I went to prison. Too many have suffered for the love of freedom. ...not only I have suffered during these long, lonely, wasted years."

During his imprisonment Mandela was regarded as leader of the African National Congress, although the highest office he held before it was banned in 1960 was deputy president-general.

He was the first commander of its military wing, "Spear of the Nation," which he helped form in 1961 to engage in a programme of sabotage against South Africa's white-ruled government.

He subsequently toured Africa, receiving military training and explaining the ANC's cause. He was arrested after his return, in 1962, and sentenced to five years' hard labour for leaving the country illegally and inciting blacks to violate the law by striking.

Mandela told the court that when his sentence was ended he would "take up again, as best I can, the struggle for the removal of those injustices until they are finally abolished once and for all."

"I have no doubt that posterity will pronounce that I was innocent, and that the criminals that should have been brought before this court are the members of the ... government," he said.

In July 1963, while Mandela was at the Robben Island maximum security prison near Cape Town, police uncovered the ANC's underground headquarters on a farm near Johannesburg and seized documents outlining plans for the guerrilla campaign, including Mandela's diary.

In June 1964, he and seven co-defendants were sentenced to life in prison.

"I do not deny that I planned sabotage," he said in his statement from the dock. "I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of

the political situation that had arisen after years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by whites."

He said he "cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. ...it is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve, but it need be an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

His wife, Winnie, jailed or banished through much of his imprisonment, said, "in each and every single letter he has written over the past 20 years and in each and every visit, he has always been confident that he will come out and lead his people to liberation."

During most of his 18 years on Robben Island, Mandela endured substandard food, deprivation of news and reading material, and hard labour that included gathering seaweed and smashing rock. Yet he often wrote his wife that the hardest thing to endure was the treatment she received.

He wrote that he sometimes wondered "whether any kind of commitment can ever be sufficient excuse for abandoning a young and inexperienced woman in a pitiless desert."

In April 1982, Mandela and five colleagues were transferred to Pollsmoor prison in a white suburb outside Cape Town. They shared a large cell where Mandela cultivated a vegetable garden and complained about the conditions. He was allowed to pursue his studies for an advanced law degree, which he received in early 1989, and eventually began receiving uncensored newspapers and radio reports.

Mandela's communications with his wife and family were restricted to 40-minute visits and one 500-word letter per month, monitored to make sure only family matters were discussed. On May 12, 1984, Mandela and his wife were allowed to embrace for the first time in 22 years.

Mandela was born July 18, 1918, the son of a tribal chief, and received a relatively privileged upbringing in Transkei, a Xhosa homeland the government has declared an independent republic. He attended Methodist schools and was admitted to the black university of Fort Hare in 1939, but was expelled in 1940 for leading a student strike with Oliver Tambo, now the ANC's exiled president.

To avoid an arranged tribal marriage, Mandela fled to Johannesburg, where he worked as a policeman at a gold mine, as a law clerk, and for a real estate agency run by Walter Sisulu, later to be imprisoned with him. Man-

delo boxed as a heavyweight and studied law at the predominantly white university of the Witwatersrand.

He married a nurse, Evelyn Mase, who bore him two daughters and two sons. One daughter died in infancy and one son was killed in a car crash in 1970. The couple divorced in 1957.

Mandela, Tambo and Sisulu formed the ANC youth league in 1944, and Mandela became its president in 1950. He was chief organiser of the ANC's defiance campaign in 1952, encouraging people to break South Africa's racial separation laws.

He and Tambo formed the first black law partnership in the coun-

try and were charged in December 1952 under the suppression of Communism act for their part in the civil disobedience campaign.

He received the first of many banning orders, restricting his activities.

He continued to work secretly and was charged in December 1956 with treason, along with 155 other South Africans of all races who had supported the freedom charter, calling for a non-racial democracy and a socialist-based economy.

While on trial, he married social worker Winnie Nomzamo Madizela, who bore him two daughters, Zenani and Zindzi.

He helped conduct the defence in the treason trial, which ended in 1960, with acquittals for all defendants. Mandela immediately went underground for fear he would be re-arrested and spent the next 17 months as a fugitive.

After a planned two-day nationwide strike was crushed by police, he and a small group of ANC colleagues decided on military action.

"All opportunities for peaceful agitation and struggle have been closed to us," he said. "Africans no longer have the freedom to even stay peacefully in their houses in protest against the oppressive policies of the government."

He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher probably would accept an invitation to become the first Western head of government to visit South Africa since 1960.

Thatcher has already invited de Klerk to Britain for talks and accolades have started to pour in from Europe and Africa, with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda complementing him on "a job well started."

Kaunda is the head of Southern Africa's important frontline nations — six black countries championing Africa's fight against South Africa's white minority rule.

Mandela's wife, Winnie, a prominent activist in her own right, said after hearing about de Klerk's speech: "We are not prepared to accept a bone with no meat."

She said de Klerk should have ended the three-year-old national state of emergency and 40 years of enforced racial segregation.

But young blacks in Cape Town and Johannesburg appeared to differ as they took to the streets in a spontaneous celebration that was not seen even when de Klerk released several top ANC leaders from prison late last year.

Zach de Beer, a leader of the anti-apartheid Democratic Party, said he listened to de Klerk "with a marvellous sense of relief."

"Aims we have fought for, sometimes under very severe pressure, are now being achieved," he said.

European governments might be slower to repeal existing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on

South Africa's de Klerk crosses Rubicon of apartheid reform

By Brendan Boyle
Reuters

CAPE TOWN — President F.W. de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon of apartheid reform that defeated his predecessor and the rewards are already beginning to flow in. De Klerk began his speech to parliament on Friday to make the concessions that his autocratic predecessor, P.W. Botha, could never bring himself to make.

Speaking on the first anniversary of his election as leader of the ruling white National Party and after six months as president, de Klerk unbanished 36 opposition groups including the African National Congress (ANC).

He also promised to free black nationalist Nelson Mandela from jail soon and announced a range of reforms that have long been demanded by South Africa's 27 million voteless blacks.

De Klerk appeared largely to meet the international expectations that Botha disappointed in August 1985, when he said in a disastrous speech that he had "crossed the Rubicon."

The world judged that Botha had in fact turned back at the Rubicon and his speech set the South African rand tumbling against world currencies and prompted international banks to call in loans to South Africa.

De Klerk's speech was followed by Botha continuing to resist real political reform and hundreds of foreign companies withdrew from South Africa.

Botha's Rubicon speech be-

came the turning point of his 10-year career and resulted eventually in his defeat last year by de Klerk, who has proved to be a more courageous reformer.

"I think de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon. He has certainly gone right out into the deep," said professor John Barratt of Johannesburg University's Institute for International Affairs.

"There is going to be very wide applause. It is going to have a very positive effect on South Africa's international relations," he said.

Western diplomats acknowledged that de Klerk had gone much further than any of them expected and said their governments would be obliged now to support his reform initiatives.

This speech demands a response both from the West and from the ANC, which is going to have to revise its tactics, one diplomat said.

Anti-government cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu commended de Klerk for his courage in instituting reform.

"I want to give him very considerable credit. He was not given everything, but he has gone a very long way along the road," Tutu told a news conference.

Barratt said he expected the U.S. administration would re-examine its anti-apartheid sanctions and hold off on further economic measures against Pretoria.

European governments might be slower to repeal existing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on

Bravo and applause for the beginners

On Saturday evening the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra performed in front of an audience of specialists. The performance drew mixed reactions. Nelly Lama was there:

THE first concert held on the occasion of the 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music (Arab League) and the 1st Arab music rostrum organized by the International Music Council (UNESCO) was performed by the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Attendance was not very encouraging although this time, it was a matter of quality rather than quantity. Professional musicians from all over the Arab World, here to attend the meeting and rostrum, formed a great part of the audience. A number of expatriates and some fellow musicians were there, but many concert habitués did not make an appearance.

Guy Huot, secretary general of the International Music Council, found the performance a "spectacular" one, but he also pointed out that the orchestra was not used to playing before an audience of specialists. He said the orchestra was "not used to playing before an audience of specialists. He said the orchestra was 'not used to playing before an audience of specialists. He said the orchestra was 'not used to playing before an audience of specialists."

Asked about intermittent mistakes made by the orchestra, he said: "Of course, that's inevitable, they are in a way the equivalent of a student orchestra except that students usually grow with their instruments whilst in

their case they were not allowed to grow, they suddenly were grown up and had to pretend they were starting now instruments. It is inevitable that they make mistakes."

Asked whether a section of the orchestra was better than the other he said: "There is a very good first flute. Obviously, there are some problems, the winds are better, it is also easier to play wind instruments rather than strings. Sometimes the violins come out quite good and so do the celli. It is a matter of coaching. I don't know how long they have been together but few years are not enough for an orchestra made of basically non professionals to suddenly become professionals."

And did the quality of the instruments used inhibited the sound? "You could have the best violin in the world and unless you have proper coaching that does not matter and if you had a great violinist with a bad instrument, he would still get good sounds out of it. I think they have to keep on getting coached, to practice everyday taking lessons. It's a long apprenticeship."

As I pointed out to him that he was very positive in his answers he assured me that it was the only way. "These people must devote so much of their time. It is a very difficult task. It is a very ambitious programme that they are doing, what they need is extra coaching and those who are better should coach the others. They should occasionally bring people from the conservatory to play with them and have sessions with them." When someone suggested that the members of the orchestra were not full-time musicians he exclaimed: "Then they have even more merit. It is a miracle they can play at all!"

Khadar Jussaid, the Syrian delegate, had a different opinion. "There is a certain hardness in the rendering. Flexibility comes with musicians who start at a very early age and grow gradually into professional musicians. There was a problem of accuracy but we were pleased to hear them perform. They can yet ameliorate their playing, for as they grow as musicians they will improve. Their strong temper will go more subtle. A performer ought to be in a state of relaxation while he performs. I came to Jordan 28 years ago and I have, since, followed its development in the field of music. You made great leaps forward and have succeeded us. Here you have good supervision and backing from both Their Majesties."

He believes that the National Music Conservatory, is putting great efforts towards creating a new generation of artists. "It is a great thing that they are forming a string section, an essential prerequisite to forming an orchestra. They are widening the horizons of these youths. Music needs to be supervised by knowledgeable people. Going back to the youthful symphony orchestra, they are good people but they still need a lot of work."

Mamir Bashir, secretary general of the Arab Music Academy and head of the regional secretariat of the International Music Council, was pleased to see the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra, a novelty in the field of military music in the Arab World. "This is a huge commitment and a difficult one. It needs time and practice and it has to be done with people who studied music on foreign instruments since childhood. It is essential to choose musical partitions that are in line with the performers' capabilities. With such compatibility, the work can be performed well. I do encourage the symphonic orchestra and not criticize them, but I look on to ten years from now. What will become of them? I feel that if we introduce into this orchestra new elements, youths



Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra (File photo)

who were brought up with this kind of music, it will have great reverberations in the development of the orchestra."

Asked about the repertoire that was then performed he said: "Difficult, difficult. The strings needed better performance, they needed to cope with the speed. They need easier pieces."

Basem Hanna Petros, second oldest player in the Iraqi Symphonic Orchestra and one of its founders, a cellist by profession, commented: "This is a military orchestra that aims at discipline and precision. As a beginning, it is very good, but it should be fed with civilian elements especially where the strings are concerned, for they need a good violin leader to teach them interpretation. The orchestra has no problem with note reading, but it needs a little refining to reach better intonation. I am pleased to find a second symphonic orchestra in the Arab World."

Petros named different orchestras that existed in the Arab World but suffered losses because of wars, as in Lebanon, or other reasons.

"The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra is the most solid one. It is backed by the government. We are all locals except for few foreign professors from the Institute of Music who fulfil our needs." He suggested that the perfor-

mers should listen to professional recordings of the pieces they play. He also expressed the wish to have them participate in a festival where all Arab symphonic orchestras perform, compete and exchange ideas. It would be a great challenge to make them improve.

Among the audience was an old friend of Jordan, Irvin Yeaworth. Yeaworth heads communication strategies, a company that makes a variety of programmes to suit the needs of different kinds of audiences around the world. They brought the Princeton Chamber Orchestra to Jordan last year. Yeaworth and his wife had just arrived in Jordan. On their way from the airport they read an announcement in the newspaper about the concert. They dropped their luggage at the hotel and rushed to attend the concert.

"This group is remarkable," he commented. "We think that what is happening here is amazing. I watched the men play and I thought, 'how did they tune their ears to this music?' They did not grow up with it. For people who have no background in Western music to train their ears to this kind of sound and learn the instruments and work together under the programme that is established here is remarkable. Every other culture where you

have this kind of music, you start with children and the better ones are selected to go on and on. They work and work. Some fall by the wayside, others persevere. What happens here is that this group of men all had to come along at the same time and that has never been done before that I know of in the history of music. We think it's a remarkable achievement. When someone is doing a step in a progression, you judge each step for what it should be. This orchestra has a good piece to travel but they have gone so far. Some areas need to be worked on, but we can't expect the same from this group of men that you would from someone who has been playing for ten years longer. When they played together with the Princeton Chamber Symphony, the American musicians had come from a European tradition, surrounding their whole lives with this kind of culture; they first sat together with some kind of apprehension but they quickly became dear friends as well as fellow musicians and they learned things from one another, which was very helpful."

It is a fact that Noor Al Hussein Foundation is procuring them with every opportunity to meet professional performers and teachers. The performers should not take this lightly for they have a mission to fulfill.

Under new rules issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and prompted by the investigation of air crashes, passenger seats are being strengthened and have been covered with fire blocking material. The allowable level of toxic smoke and fumes from burning aircraft materials also has been reduced, and exit doors have been made more reliable to avoid jamming.

FAA spokesman Fred Farrar said Avianca, like other foreign airlines, would have been required to make some safety upgrades, such as providing fire-retardant seat covers and lavatory smoke alarms, but it would not have been required to strengthen seats.

The latter requirements still are being adopted for foreign airlines, Farrar said.

Arbon says that by the nature of its technology, the modern jet passenger liner is a safer plane than the piston aircraft it replaced.

"We used to lose engines frequently," he said. "The jetliner has a very reliable power plant. It also has a good guidance system, a good auto pilot; the electronics are much more reliable."

Robertson says improvements are continuing on "the ways in which airplanes are informed as to what is going on and how people on the ground control them."

Airline industry: Plane crashes becoming more survivable

By Lawrence L. Knutson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aid disasters such as the Avianca Airlines crash on Long Island last week are becoming more survivable, in part because design and technical advances have made jet travel safer, many air safety experts say. "The accident rate is improving. It's not more dangerous, it's getting better," says S. Harry Robertson, director of the Crash Research Institute in Tempe, Arizona. "Airplanes are getting safer as the newer generations come along. The rate of improvement is very significant."

Capt. Ed Arbon, who flew for 22 years with Trans World Airlines and is now an official of the Flight Safety Foundation, agrees. "Some of the recent improvements do make the modern aircraft more survivable," Arbon says.

"Eighty to 85 per cent of recent crashes are survivable," says Drucella Anderson, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board. "A lot of safeguards have been built into the planes."

Eighty-nine of the 161 passengers — more than half — survived the crash of Avianca flight 52 into a hill on the north shore of Long Island.

Preliminary inquiries suggest the craft had either run out of fuel or had a very low supply when it crashed Jan. 25 night on its way to New York's John F. Kennedy international airport. There was no fire when the 23-year-old Boeing 707 crashed.

But the battle for air safety is far from over, even though air travel on the whole has become amazingly safe and millions of passengers are transported each year without incident.

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An example, he says, is the wind shear blamed for the August 1985 crash of a Delta airliner near the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport.

"The people in the tower had no idea of what was going on," he contends. "Today they have better sensors out there. So that is improving."

Arbon said some 70 per cent of today's accidents are due to "the human factor," adding that it is there that the strongest efforts for improvement are now being made.

Ms. Anderson says the NTSB dates many of the improvements in air safety to the recommendations made after its investigation of the deadly fire on June 2, 1983, aboard an Air Canada jetliner en route from Texas to Toronto.

Twenty-three people died aboard the plane, which made an emergency landing at the Greater Cincinnati airport. Some suffered fatal burns. Others died of smoke inhalation.

The recommendations led to the installation of fire blocking covers on passenger seats on all commercial aircraft with 30 or more seats, automatic fire extinguishers in lavatories, halon fire extinguishers in the cockpit, smoke detectors in lavatories and new rules on cabin materials to make the cabin interiors more flame resistant and less likely to emit toxic gases, Ms. Anderson said.

But there are some clouds on the safety horizon.

For example, Robertson said that while seats have been made stronger to resist the impact of a crash, the floor beneath them has not.

"Before the changes the seats were folding over," he said. "But when the seat is stiff it makes it easier to break it off the floor." "So they sometimes do pop off the floor," he said and added: "Maybe this step in the right direction is going to backfire."

Modern technology may also have reduced the protection offered by the "protective cocoon" or fuselage of a jetliner, Robinson says.

Today's planes are made from high-strength aluminum to hold down weight. But Robertson says the resulting fuselage is brittle.

"They shatter, and sharp fragments lie all over the crash site," he says. "Earlier generations of aircraft would crush, buckle and wrinkle, but the box was still there. They are losing that cocoon protection."

Robertson, whose institute has been engaged in the study of air crashes for more than 30 years, says air disasters can be divided into three categories.

These range from the airborne equivalent of fender-benders — posing small risk to those on board — to deadly accidents in which all or most of the passengers and crew are killed.

It is the third category — middle-ground accidents in which some are killed but many survive — which pose an opportunity, the safety experts say.

"The aim is to take that middle ground and expand it," thus reducing the number of totally deadly accidents, Robertson said. "It is in fact being expanded."

Liv Ullmann: Actress and activist

By John Parker
Reporter

HONG KONG — When Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann recently defied danger warnings to visit children in Hong Kong's often violent camps for Vietnamese boat people, she had in mind a particular child yet unborn.

Police advised that her safety in some camps could not be guaranteed, but Ullmann, 51, is soon to be grandmother and says that knowledge has honed her keen social conscience.

"Now ... (work with refugees) is even more important," she said in an interview.

"What if (my grandchild) turns out to be a very socially conscious person? Then he hears about shocking things that were going on in the world and he says, 'grandmother what did you do to help?' I'd like to not lose his respect."

At a news conference last week to draw attention to the plight of Vietnamese boat people crammed into Hong Kong's overflow-

ing camps, Ullmann spent 10 minutes lambasting a local journalist for an article she disliked.

"That would be just so bizarre," she told another reporter who asked if she would answer questions on a 30-year career that has included such films as *The Hour of the Wolf* in 1968 and the 1974 *Scenes from a Marriage*.

Ullmann was in Hong Kong as joint leader of a delegation from the U.S.-based Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children which spent a week touring the camps and talking to refugees.

"She was really marvelous in the camps," said one of her co-delegates, describing how Ullmann spent hours talking to boat people.

Since December, when Hong Kong for the first time forcibly repatriated a group of 51 boat people from among the 56,000 in the British colony, aid workers and police say the atmosphere in the Jam-packed camps has grown far worse.

After surviving perilous voyages in small boats across the

South China Sea, and languishing — often for years — in Hong Kong camps, most of the boat people now face the prospect of being sent back to their communist homeland.

Some are desperate enough to feel they have nothing to lose by violent protest against repatriation.

Vicious fights between rival gangs are commonplace. Women and girls complain of rape and sexual harassment. Children grow up seeing the world through barbed wire.

Ullmann described the conditions in the camps as a disgrace. Her delegation said in a statement: "No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning infants, keeping them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentration camp-like conditions."

The actress has little time for the politics of the problem — she sees suffering and wants it stopped — and the brushes aside the concerns of those Hong Kong residents who resent the imposition of so many Vietnamese on the already crowded British

colony.

"What I am sure of is that if Hong Kong people could visit the camps and speak woman-to-woman, or child-to-child, or man-to-man, they would re-evaluate thoughts they might have had."

Although in the past 10 or 15 years Ullmann has spent little time in her native Norway, it is her strong attachment to her homeland that helps explain why she has focused her energies on the plight of refugees.

"I am very happy for many reasons to be Norwegian ... I know how important it is to belong somewhere, to have roots somewhere — that's why it is so easy for me to identify with people who have become uprooted."

She still has a home in Norway and carries a Norwegian passport. Her only child — 23-year-old Kim — is expecting her grandchild there, but these days Ullmann herself lives in Boston with her husband of five years, businessman Donald Saunders.

She leads a quiet life and shuns the glitz of the movie world.



Liv Ullmann

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Graf wins Pan-Pacific Open

TOKYO (AP) — Steffi Graf Sunday avenged her defeat at last year's French Open by overwhelming Arantxa Sanchez to win the Toray Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament and her 52nd-straight victory.

Graf fired nine aces en route to beating the Spanish teenager 6-1, 6-2 on an artificial court at the number two Yoyogi National Gym.

Graf, the world's top-ranked player, took home \$70,000 and Sanchez, ranked fifth in the world, earned \$31,500.

"I think this surface maybe isn't her favorite, since she is a clay court player," Graf said after the match before 3,000 people.

"This surface fits me," she said. Graf, who came to Tokyo after winning the Australian Open for the third consecutive year, said: "I played all the tournament very well and had a good feeling and lots of confidence."

The 20-year-old West German

unleashed two aces in a row at the start of the first set, and went on to lose only one point in the first game.

Graf broke the second game, and fired two more aces in the third, which she won without losing a point.

In the second set, Graf deftly used passing shots to break Sanchez's serve in the first game after four deuces.

Sanchez led 40-15 in the second game, but her break point slipped away when Graf attacked with a smash.

The 18-year-old Sanchez said she did not expect the match, played on a fast surface, to go like the French Open final, when she defeated Graf 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5.

"(Graf) had very good first serves and forehands. She made less mistakes," Sanchez said after the match, adding that she had skipped the Australian Open and trained hard for this tournament.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday watches the final matches between Jordan and Malaysia in a Davis Cup zonal qualifying round (Petr photo)

DAVIS CUP TENNIS TOURNAMENT:

Jordan loses again but Queen lauds team's courage

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the final round of the Davis Cup tennis tournament, Malaysia beat Jordan 5-0 in their Asia/Oceania zone, group two. Next, Malaysia will play Hong Kong in the quarterfinals scheduled to begin on March 30.

Kan Ka Vhai of Malaysia played four straight matches in the first singles match held on Sunday and won 6-1, 6-2, 6-1. In the second match, U. Murali Dharan of Malaysia led his team in another victory over Ayman Abu Jabr, ending the game with 6-4, 6-1.

Both games reflected the Jordanian team's unrelenting efforts to play a good game till the end. In the opening matches of the tournament, which was sponsored by Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, the Malaysians took the lead by defeating Jordan in the two singles held Friday, and the doubles held on Saturday, thus advancing 3-0.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who attended the three-day tournament, was not discouraged by Jordan's defeat. "The players that have played in this match have all played with great deal of commitment, heart and courage," the Queen told the Jordan Times after the match. "They've really played very well, and I'm really proud of them."

Her Majesty Queen said that "we knew that our team was facing a very tough competition, and a much more professional team."

The Queen reflected on a belief held by some that perhaps Jordan should not compete in international tournaments such as the Davis Cup tennis tournament, because of the Jordanian team's consecutive defeats, and said that she disagreed. "I think it's very important that we realize it takes time and hard work, and it's only through this process could we have competitive tennis players."

Her Majesty sounded very optimistic when she spoke about the younger generation of tennis players. "I am very excited about the young people who play tennis, and I can see in many of them great potential," the Queen said.

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Queen Elizabeth closes games

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II brought the curtain down on the 14th Commonwealth Games Saturday after a final day that maintained the event's penchant for drama and controversy.

The queen ignored about 30 Maori protesters as she arrived to watch the start of the track action at a sun-drenched Mt. Smart Stadium, then returned for the customary glittering pageant and fireworks display that ended the 11-day, 57-nation sports festival at dusk.

"In the name of the Commonwealth Games Federation, I proclaim the 14th Commonwealth Games, Auckland, 1990, closed," the queen said. "In accordance with tradition, I call upon sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth to assemble in four years' time in (Victoria) Canada to celebrate the 15th Commonwealth Games."

The monarch's remarks and an appearance immediately afterwards by world-famous opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa brought a resounding cheer from the 35,000 spectators, who played their part in an event that lived up to its billing as the friendly games only in terms of local hospitality.

As she departed from the stadium, Queen Elizabeth left behind memories of boycott threats, a major drug scandal and several personal vendettas between athletes.

The mood was maintained right up until the final afternoon, when one of the world's best-known runners, John Walker, made a sad and angry exit in front of his home public.

Walker, making his last appearance in a New Zealand vest at age 38, tangled with Pat Scammell in the 1,500 metres, finished last and launched a scathing attack on the Australian.

"He just stopped running and I hit the back of his heel," said Walker, the 1976 Olympic champion and former mile world record holder. "This is nothing new for Scammell. He decks everyone in Europe as well. I thought I'd run a great race... It's so damn

disappointing."

Walker said the race was the biggest disappointment of his career. "I was hoping to be up here as a medal winner not as a non-finisher," Walker said.

Scammell threw his bag to the ground when told Walker and blamed him. "I got tripped from behind. I may have been the cause of the fall in the sense I went down but I wasn't to blame," Scammell said.

The race was won by England's Peter Elliott, who stepped out of the shadow of former rivals Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe to win his first major title.

Elliott, the Olympic silver medalist, hit the front with 400 metres to go and outpaced Wilfred Kirochi of Kenya to win in 3:33.39. New Zealand's Peter O'Donoghue took the bronze.

"I'm just happy that I'm going away from here as Commonwealth champion," said Elliott, who also won the 800-metre silver medal at the 1987 World Championships.

"I've had two silver from major championships but the gold has always eluded me," the 27-year-old Englishman said. "I was always frightened I would retire from athletics never being a champion."

After his victory, Elliott went straight over to Walker and asked the New Zealander to share the lap of honour. Walker shook his head but Elliott insisted.

"I knew something had gone wrong," Elliott said. "I'm just pleased he could join me because the majority of people here today had come to see John Walker. I really admire him as a competitor."

Elliott's performance was so impressive that Coe, who withdrew from the event because of illness, might have struggled to keep up with the pace.

On Friday, Coe was forced to withdraw from the heats of what would have been the last race of his 14-year career.

The previous day, the 33-year-old Englishman managed only sixth place in the 800-metre final

and went into retirement without a Commonwealth Games medal — the one major honour that had eluded him.

Walker's clash with Scammell was not the only black spot of the final day.

One of the stars of the games, 100-metre Olympic champion Linford Christie, boycotted part of the closing ceremony in protest over an appeal by three of 1,600-metre teams being turned down by the games' appeal jury.

The teams of England, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago were disqualified from Friday's heats because their baton changes had been outside the allowed area.

Christie was one of three English gold medalists selected to take part in the closing ceremony. But a press statement from the English team said the sprinter had declined to participate "although he recognises the honour which has been bestowed on him."

Team manager John Jeffery said it was Christie's decision not to take part.

"This is a decision for Linford to make as an individual. It is not a team decision," Jeffery said. "I will not force him to take part."

In the absence of three of the strongest teams, Kenya won the gold.

Christie's stand came after he had anchored the England team to victory in the 400-metre relay.

Overall, Australia won 162 medals, 52 of which were gold. England had 129 and 47 golds, Canada 113 with 35 golds. Of the 57 competing nations, 29 went home with at least one medal.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
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WHO NEEDS KINGS?

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 4 2
♥ J 9 7 6
♦ 6
♣ A K 8 7

WEST
♠ K Q 7
♥ 10 5 3 2
♦ 5 2
♣ J 10 6 3

EAST
♠ J 9 3
♥ Q 4
♦ A K 10 8 7 3
♣ 9 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 6 5
♥ A K 8
♦ Q J 9 4
♣ Q 5 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

Here's another fine defensive hand from the recent European Championships in Turkey, Finland.

It arose in the Italy-Denmark match. The Danes, among the pre-tournament favorites, were challenging strongly for the title. To all intents and purposes, Italy was out of the running.

The bidding was short and sweet.

East's jump to two diamonds was, of course, preemptive.

East covered dummy's six of diamonds with the seven and declarer's nine won. Looking at all the cards, it's easy to see that declarer can make his contract by dropping the queen of hearts, but that's not a very high-percentage play. Instead, South tried to set up a second spade trick, so at trick two a low spade was ducked to West's queen. The defenders took the ace and king of diamonds, followed by a third diamond. Hearts were played from dummy, and West parted with a heart and then the king of spades. With clubs breaking 4-2, declarer had only eight tricks. His ninth would have to come from spades, but as a result of West's discard there was no way to set up a long spade without letting East gain the lead. And that worthy had more than enough diamonds to sink the contract.

That got Italy off to a good start and they piled on the pressure to annihilate Denmark by a score of 25-3. The Danes never recovered from this setback, and were out of contention at the finish.

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Thousands join rally ahead of key Moscow Communist meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people demanding radical reform marched towards the centre of Moscow Sunday as reformist groups from across the country turned up the pressure on the Kremlin to overhaul the Communist Party.

The march, sponsored by a broad range of progressive and national movements, comes on the eve of a crucial plenum of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

Proposals before the party's plenum include surrendering its constitutional stranglehold on power and expanding accountability to the people.

The government daily Izvestia warned that the Communist Party was facing its darkest days ever. "The party is going through its most difficult time, perhaps the most difficult in its entire history," it said.

More than 10,000 people, many waving flags of the powerful Baltic republics and carrying signs demanding more openness in the party, crossed the Kremlin bridge on a march to a public square, about two kilometres from the Kremlin.

Security forces stood by quietly as the crowd set off but most of the streets heading into the centre

crumbling economy.

More ominous for the Communist establishment is a growing tide of discontent in the giant Russian federation that has brought down a series of party leaders, a sign the republic's political apathy is coming to an end.

Party officials in the eastern city of Vladivostok, the Siberian oil centre of Tyumen and the southern city of Volgograd have been removed in recent weeks amid popular anger over corruption and the slow pace of reform.

The party newspaper Pravda Sunday suggested that disgraced Communist officials should face a strict accounting for their misdeeds, rather than simply be allowed to retire on full pensions.

Those singled out included former ideology chief Mikhail Suslov, former Leningrad Party chief Gregory Romanov and one-time Moscow party boss Viktor Grishin. All were members of the ruling Politburo.

In a bid to counter the crisis, the party has paved the way for major reform with a public relations campaign in the Soviet media.

Sunday newspapers devoted many columns to discussion of reform measures, including an

official proposal for direct elections of the delegates to the party congress in October.

The head of the Moscow higher party school was quoted as saying the next congress could be the party's last if greater democracy was not introduced.

A report by Radio Moscow's Interfax publication said the plenum Monday would debate a new platform of "humane democratic socialism."

"The draft platform calls for a radical perestroika of the party, which will fight for its leading role, but assume no state or government power, nor lay any claim to having its role set down in the constitution," Interfax said.

Interfax also said the plan contained radical changes in the party structure, including the election of a chairman and two deputies and the creation of a streamlined 200-member Central Committee.

A new political executive committee would be created, with representatives from each of the 15 republics, an idea borrowed from Lithuanian party chief Algirdas Brazauskas. It was not clear, however, whether this body would replace the Politburo.

The Communist governments in Prague and Budapest in the 1970s. Austria had agreed to finance part of the Hungarian project in exchange for electricity.

The chain across the West German-Czechoslovak border was formed between the Czechoslovak town of Zlezná Ruda and the West German border town of Bayrisch Eisenstein, about 150 kilometres northeast of Munich.

Among West German participants was the Bavarian Minister of Environment and Agriculture, Alfred Dick, CTK said.

"Several doors have been opened in the common European home which is being built. Now we will have to open also the windows to let some fresh air come in," Dick was quoted by CTK as saying.

The project was agreed on by the Communist governments in Prague and Budapest in the 1970s. Austria had agreed to finance part of the Hungarian project in exchange for electricity.

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Scowcroft sees more global role for U.S. armed forces

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Saturday that U.S. forces in the future will be smaller but "more global" in their orientation.

Scowcroft also said U.S. policy for Europe is one of "continuity and change" to adapt to the massive transformations sweeping Eastern Europe.

But he added that the United States will remain a military power on the continent.

The national security adviser spoke at the annual Wehrkunde conference in Munich, which brings together security experts, lawmakers and government officials from NATO countries and Japan.

"America will remain engaged as a global power," Scowcroft said. "Part of the adjustment in our defence posture will be to ward active forces that are smaller, more global in orientation." He said such forces will have a

"degree of agility, readiness and sustainability appropriate to the demands of likely contingencies." U.S. President George Bush has already proposed reducing superpower forces in Central Europe to 195,000 troops for each side.

That would mean a reduction of about 60,000 U.S. servicemen, most of them from West Germany, and cutting Soviet troops from their current level of 565,000.

Scowcroft did not spell out how U.S. forces would be poised to be "more global" in orientation.

The conference was held against the backdrop of vastly improved East-West relations and European integration that many predict will lead to German unification.

Scowcroft repeated U.S. support for German unity and said "Germany's growing strength may be a most prominent feature of this new European balance."

"A stronger Europe could assume increased responsibilities for its own defence — and here, European defence cooperation could become more important within the alliance (NATO) framework," Scowcroft said. "It's time for a European pillar to be built in the security field, now more so than ever."

There have been increasing questions about the U.S. role in a rapidly changing Europe.

Scowcroft addressed that point, saying: "It is the intention of the United States to remain engaged in Europe with a substantial military and political presence."

He continued: "We feel we are a European power with an abiding and permanent interest in European security."

The Wehrkunde conference, despite its size and the attention it attracts, is designed as a forum for the participants to discuss defence issues candidly.

Roh agrees on reforms

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo pledged with former opposition leaders Saturday to accelerate democratic reforms and release imprisoned dissidents, the presidential office announced.

The announcement said Roh agreed on democratic reforms, including an amnesty for those jailed for political protests, proposed by two former opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil in talks at Roh's office.

Roh and the two Kims also agreed to seek "steady democratic reforms" after forming a broad-based new conservative party by early April, it said.

In a move unprecedented in South Korea's constitutional history, Roh announced last week that his governing party will merge with the nation's second and third opposition groups.

Roh's Democratic Justice Party was dissolved Thursday, and Kim Young-Sam's Renovation Democratic Party announced its dissolution Monday.

The presidential announcement did not say how many prisoners will be freed, but said the government would consider releasing "as many as possible."

No government figures were available, but dissidents claim there are about 1,000 dissidents, students, workers and others imprisoned for political activity.

Disidents and radical students have vowed to launch a civil drive against the three-party merger, calling it a scheme by a military dictatorship to prolong its power.

The merger will change South Korea's faction-ridden, four-party political structure by widening the base of the governing group and dwarfing the largest opposition party led by Kim Dae-jung.

No agreement has been reached on how to compose the new party's leadership and hierarchy. Party officials said talks were under way on changing the nation's current presidential government system into a parliamentary structure.

Jackson urges S. African leader to learn from Lincoln, Kennedy

LONDON (AP) — Jesse Jackson appealed Saturday to President F.W. de Klerk to follow the example of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy and press ahead with his reforms, regardless of any threatened backlash from white conservatives.

"The U.S. black civil rights leader expressed 'hope and caution' about South Africa as he prepared to revisit it after being refused entry for a decade.

He flies to Zambia Monday, and to South Africa Wednesday, and he said he was hoping to meet De Klerk as well as jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, in or out of prison.

De Klerk has promised Mandela's imminent release, and has legislated the African National Congress, the main guerrilla group fighting white rule, and lifted restrictions on 60 opposition groups and 374 individuals.

Jackson mentioned President Lincoln's emancipation of the

American slaves, and President Kennedy's desegregation drive in the southern United States. "And so Mr. De Klerk must be encouraged to move. ... Most people in the world are pulling for him to go further and don't stop now."

Jackson said De Klerk must not be deterred by any threatened backlash.

"Great leadership does not follow opinion polls. It molds opinion," he told reporters. "Mr. De Klerk is now in a position to mold opinion and make things happen, and should not let this moment pass. ... He must seize this moment to do the right thing."

He should free Mandela and abolish the remaining pillars of apartheid like the group areas act, which segregates residential rights by race, Jackson said.

Jackson, hitherto a fervent supporter of economic sanctions against South Africa, was non-committal about whether the West should continue to apply

them.

"Sanctions is not the central issue," he said, noting that De Klerk had not made their removal a condition for reform, and that U.S. President George Bush had said it was premature to talk of lifting sanctions.

"Sanctions should be part of the negotiating process therefore, not a precondition," Jackson said. "And to put the focus on sanctions rather than apartheid is to shift the focus away from the need to encourage Mr. De Klerk to continue. And what we heard yesterday was reason for hope and caution."

Jackson said he hoped that in giving him a visa for the first time since 1979, South Africa was sending "yet another signal of a commitment to openness."

In London, Jackson was visiting black cultural groups Saturday, and on Monday he meets with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Rushdie 'misses' ordinary life

NEW YORK (R) — Salman Rushdie, in hiding for nearly a year since the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered his death, said in an interview published Saturday that he misses ordinary pleasures like driving a car and going to the cinema.

In a 90-minute telephone interview with Newsweek, Rushdie also said he feels that if his novel the Satanic Verses is not issued in paperback then the death order and the campaign against the book will have succeeded.

Khomeini ordered Muslims a year ago to kill Rushdie for blaspheming against Islam in the surrealist novel and even after Rushdie apologised the death order stood. The Indian-born author went into hiding in Britain on Feb. 14.

Khomeini died last June 3 but Iran did not lift the order and Rushdie has remained in hiding under the protection of Britain's special branch.

He has written several book reviews and essays but declined interviews with the media until he agreed to call Newsweek from his hiding place.

In the interview, Rushdie said that what he misses most is "ordinary life: Walking down the street, browsing in a bookstore, going to a movie."

"I've always been a big movie addict and I haven't been in the cinema for a year. I haven't driven a car for a year, and I love to drive. What I miss are these tiny things," he said.

He also said he was upset with his publisher, Viking Penguin, for not issuing a paperback version of the Satanic Verses, something he said would have normally been done this winter.

"If we do not complete the cycle of publication, we will in some sense have been defeated by the campaign against the book."

Military sources said that at present Sri Lankan security personnel received training in India and Pakistan. Arms and ammunition are mainly purchased from China and the West.

Officials of both countries are now studying the draft, which will be made into a joint treaty to be signed soon. It will replace a 1987 accord between the two countries.

The Sunday Times, giving details of the draft for the first time in the local press, quoted the Indian draft as saying that "each contracting party will respect the independence, unity, sovereign and territorial integrity of the other and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other."

The Sri Lankan draft said both countries would agree that each country will not permit its territory to be used by any person to commit terrorist activities or to advocate separation in the other.

India is in the process of withdrawing peacekeeping troops sent in July 1987 to police a peace accord aimed at halting a Tamil separatist insurrection. But the largest Tamil militant group re-neged on the accord and attacked the Indian peacekeepers.

The arrival of the Indian soldiers triggered a murderous backlash by ultranationalist Sinhalese, who started assassinating fellow Sinhalese in the government for making concessions to the minority Tamils and inviting in the foreign troops.

Indian troops came to Sri Lanka at the invitation of Premadasa's predecessor, then-President J. R. Jayewardene, who was a special guest at Sunday's celebrations.

Premadasa, who like most top Sri Lankan politicians is Sinhalese, took office 13 months ago. His government counts among its successes has been India's agreement to withdraw the last of its troops by March 31, bringing Tamil Tiger guerrillas into negotiations for political power, and annihilating the top leadership of the Sinhalese extremists.

Tamil militants launched their campaign for a separate state in 1983, saying they needed their own homeland to preserve their minority ethnic identity and to combat what they said was discrimination by the Sinhalese in jobs, education and use of the Sinhalese language.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, while the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent. About 7 per cent of the population are Muslims. There also is a small Christian community descended from European colonists.

India has proposed in a draft friendship treaty with Sri Lanka that it provide training and arms for Colombo's security forces, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

"The government of India in a spirit of friendship and cooperation will provide training facilities and military supplies for Sri Lankan security forces at the request of the government of Sri Lanka," the newspaper quoted.

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Human chain formed across Czech borders

PRAGUE (AP) — Thousands of Czechoslovak and West German citizens joined hands across the border Saturday in a gesture of freedom and rejection of the "iron curtain" that divided East and West.

In a separate protest, tens of thousands of people from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria formed a human chain across the Danube River and across territory in all three countries to protest a hydro-electric power plant project on the Danube, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported.

According to CTK, thousands of people from West Germany and Czechoslovakia helped form a human chain across their joint border. Among them was Czechoslovakia's foreign minister, the former dissident Jiri Dienstbier.

With the action, the participants wanted to draw attention to the "absurdity of the iron curtain," CTK said.

Dienstbier was quoted as saying that a joint commission would meet next week to discuss the opening of new border crossings between the countries.

CTK said up to 100,000 people helped form a human chain along the Danube over a span of about 150 kilometres from the town of Hainburg in Austria, across to Bratislava in Czechoslovakia and to Komárom in Hungary.

Hungary's parliament has already voted to scrap its part of the joint dam project with Czechoslovakia and the new Fr-

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21 killed as violent windstorm hits France

PARIS (AP) — A violent windstorm buffeted much of northern France, killing at least 21 people, cutting rail service to several areas, disrupting air traffic and causing heavy damage.

Winds as high as 168 kilometres per hour tore across Brittany Saturday, Normandy and the Paris region, ripping off roofs, blowing trees and electric lines across railways and roads and cutting off electric service to more than two million people.

Among the buildings damaged was the 12th century cathedral at Chartres, one of the most magnificent Gothic structures ever built. The wind ripped copper plates from the roof making a 50-square-metre hole over the nave between the two bell towers.

The National Civil Defence office said at least 21 people died as a result of the storm, though the circumstances of all the deaths were not immediately known.

Eleven people died in the Paris region, according to authorities. Wind uprooted a tree and blew it onto the roof of a house in Villacresnes. Three people in the house were injured. One of them, a woman, later died.

Fire Department headquarters said a 75-year-old woman died in Rosny-Sous-Bois when a bar from a shutter blew across a room and hit her in the head. In Alfortville, a young man was killed by a fence post that hit him on the head.

In Boussy-Saint-Antoine, a man died when a tree fell on his car. A similar accident killed three people in Fontainebleau.

The Paris Fire Department also said the wind caused the glass covering of a swimming pool at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges to explode, injuring about 15 children with flying glass.

At Quimper, in Brittany, a 64-year-old man was blown from his roof as he tried to repair the rain gutter. Another man died in similar fashion at Ergue-Gaveric, also in Brittany, falling from his roof as he was fixing his television antenna.

A motorcyclist was killed in the city of Moulins when he was hit in the head by a flying tree branch, and a truck driver died when a gust turned over his vehicle in the Ille-et-Vilaine region.

In Paris, the St. Lazare Railroad Station, France's busiest, was closed about 2 p.m. and all rail service to Normandy cut off. Officials of the state-run railroad, the Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français, said the shutdown was caused by electric lines that had fallen across the tracks in several areas as well as trees.

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Mrs. Bandaranaike, who served two terms as prime minister in the 1960s and 1970s when that post headed the Sri Lankan government, questioned whether anyone was in the mood to celebrate Sri Lanka's freedom from Britain on Feb. 4, 1948.

"When our country has earned the reputation of being one where crime and violence have reached barbaric proportions, can anyone other than those in power celebrate independence?" Mrs. Bandaranaike asked in a statement published in Sri Lankan newspapers Sunday.

Premadasa, speaking at Colombo's Independence Square, conceded 1989 was a "trying period." But in his anniversary message to the nation, he said: "Our people have clearly indicated they will never allow intimidation, bloodletting and violence to destroy democracy."

The president spoke in Sinhalese, Tamil and English, reflecting the ethnic diversity that lies at the root of Sri Lanka's

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